



Jess Purchase

Consultant Barrister



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Interests

Jess loves hiking in the Peak District with her partner and her dog and is also an enthusiastic climber. She is a keen gardener and volunteers at the local city farm at weekends.

Memberships

Member of the Middle Temple

Member of Resolution

Member of the Family Law Bar Association

Member of Amicus

Founding Board Member of Women in Family Law

Profile

Jess completed pupillage in a specialist family law team in London and practiced there for two years before joining Unit Chambers. Jess is a children law specialist and has broad experience in public and private children cases and matters with an international element.

Prior to her career at the Bar, Jess was an Amicus intern at the Oklahoma County Public Defender's office assisting counsel in preparation for, and throughout the capital trial of, *State of Oklahoma v Dustin Davison*. Before converting to law, Jess worked in mental health as a community support worker and as a volunteer supervisor for the National Self Harm Network.

Jess has a reputation as a fearless and dynamic advocate. She prides herself on her ability to put clients at ease, manage their expectations whilst ensuring that they feel properly heard, and guide them through the court process.

History

2021 - Present	Consultant Barrister Unit Chambers
2018 - 2021	36 Family, part of The 36 Group
2017	Called to the Bar

Professional Experience

Public Law

Jess acts across all areas of public proceedings, accepting instructions from local authorities, parents and children's guardians. She has dealt with a range of complex issues in cases involving domestic violence, non-accidental injury, emotional abuse, substance abuse and chronic neglect. Jess also has experience in cases involving deprivation of liberty, wardship and child abduction.

Private Law

Jess has extensive experience representing parents and extended family members in private children matters, both at first instance and at appeal. She is regularly instructed in sensitive and highly emotive private children cases including those with allegations of domestic violence and parental alienation, and private law cases with a public law dimension. She is equally adept in cases involving specific issues such as change of name or school and prohibited steps. Jess has a particular interest in matters with an international elements and has experience of advising and representing parties in internal and international relocation cases.

Family Law Act

Jess regularly represents applicants and respondents in injunction proceedings under Part IV of the Family Law Act 1996.

Reported cases

Re Y (Leave to oppose adoption) [2020] EWCA Civ 1287: Jess was led by Malcolm MacDonald representing the mother in the first remote hearing before the Court of Appeal involving litigants with profound hearing difficulties. The parents had been granted permission to oppose the making of an adoption order, which was appealed by the local authority. The appeal was dismissed. The Court also confirmed that, in the absence of updating guidance from the President in relation to hybrid or remote hearings, the guidance in Re C [2014] EWCA Civ 128 applies.

Articles

"Treatments and interventions where domestic abuse has occurred in children matters" FLJ July [2021] Fam Law 940.